



Middle East Spotlight

Standing Together in the International Arena

The U.S.-Israel relationship is founded upon shared values. Together, the United States and Israel work to promote democratic ideals and create positive impact worldwide, forging a shared alliance in the face of increasing international opposition. Our united stance is most evident in international forums, where the United States is often the only vote against measures designed to harm Israel.

While not appearing in many headlines, the recent 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference was manipulated by Arab states. The conference agenda has historically focused on establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. However, the United States has repeatedly said that without the necessary preconditions, such a zone would gravely undermine Israel's national security.

Egypt submitted a proposal which would have allowed the agenda of future NPT meetings to be determined by the United Nations without the consent of the United States and Israel. Standing strong with our ally, Israel, the United States voted against this proposal, effectively blocking it.

President Obama has stressed that, "a comprehensive and durable peace in the region and full compliance by all regional states with their arms control and nonproliferation obligations are essential precursors [for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons]."

These precursors have not yet been achieved.

Furthermore, the NPT review conference failed to adequately address the key nuclear proliferation threat facing the Middle East and the world—Iran. Iran's violations of the NPT have the potential to spur a nuclear arms race in the region, with Saudi Arabia's announcement of plans to potentially buy nuclear weapons from Pakistan.

These failures of the NPT framework, and the attempts to hijack it, add significance to the vital role the United States must continue advancing in international forums, particularly the United Nations.

Since the early years of his administration, President Obama has committed to preventing isolation of Israel within global forums. The United States' vote against the Egyptian proposal at the NPT conference is a profound reminder of how vital that promise remains, and serves as a meaningful reminder of the unbreakable alliance between our two nations.